

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend Claim 1 to read as follows:

51. (Amended) An apparatus for processing a digital picture signal, comprising:

means for receiving a digital picture signal having picture type data included in a data identification area of said digital picture signal indicating one of intrapicture coding, predictive coding and bidirectionally predictive coding for respective pictures represented by said digital picture signal, said picture type data identifying an encoding structure of a group of pictures represented by said digital picture signal and further identifying each respective picture within said group of pictures so as to identify the type of encoding of said digital picture signal for each said picture; and

coding means for encoding said digital picture signal as a function of said picture type data to produce an encoded digital picture signal. --

Cancel claim 4.

Amend claim 8 to read as follows:

~~8~~⁹. (Amended) An apparatus for processing an encoded digital picture signal, comprising:

means for decoding said encoded digital picture signal to produce picture type data representing a type of encoding of said encoded digital picture signal and to produce a decoded digital picture signal, said picture type data identifying a

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previous encoding structure of a group of pictures represented by said encoded digital picture signal and further identifying each respective picture within said group of pictures represented by said decoded digital picture signal so as to identify the previous type of encoding for each picture represented by said decoded digital picture signal; and

means for including said picture type data in a data identification area of said decoded digital picture signal to produce an output signal.--

Cancel claim 9.

Amend claim 13 to read as follows:

15. ~~A13~~ (Amended) A method of processing a digital picture signal, comprising the steps of:

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receiving a digital picture signal having picture type data included in a data identification area of said digital picture signal indicating one of intrapicture coding, predictive coding and bidirectionally predictive coding for respective pictures represented by said digital picture signal, said picture type data identifying an encoding structure of a group of pictures represented by said digital picture signal and further identifying each respective picture within said group of pictures so as to identify the type of encoding of said digital picture signal for each said picture; and

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encoding said digital picture signal as a function of
said picture type data to produce an encoded digital picture
signal. ↗

Cancel claim 16.

Amend claim 20 to read as follows:

--20²³. (Amended) A method of processing an encoded
digital picture signal, comprising the steps of:

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decoding said encoded digital picture signal to produce
picture type data representing a type of encoding of said encoded
digital picture signal and to produce a decoded digital picture
signal, said picture type data identifying a previous encoding
structure of a group of pictures represented by said encoded
digital picture signal and further identifying each respective
picture within said group of pictures represented by said decoded
digital picture signal so as to identify the previous type of
encoding for each picture represented by said decoded digital
picture signal; and

including said picture type data in a data
identification area of said decoded digital picture signal to
produce an output signal.--

Cancel claim 21.

Add the following new claims:

7. ~~24~~²⁴. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said digital
picture signal includes an ancillary area in which said picture
type data is included followed by a video area in which picture

data representing a picture of said digital picture signal is included. -A

^{8.}
~~125.~~ The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said picture type data identifies a minimum number of frames between two frames encoded either by intrapicture or predictive coding and identifies a total number of frames in said group of pictures represented by said digital picture signal. A

^{13.}
~~126.~~ The apparatus of claim ⁹~~8~~, wherein said digital picture signal includes an ancillary area in which said picture type data is included followed by a video area in which picture data representing a picture of said digital picture signal is included. N

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^{14.}
~~127.~~ The apparatus of claim ⁹~~8~~, wherein said picture type data identifies a minimum number of frames between two frames encoded either by intrapicture or predictive coding and identifies a total number of frames in said group of pictures represented by said digital picture signal. T

^{21.}
~~128.~~ The method of claim ¹⁵~~13~~, wherein said digital picture signal includes an ancillary area in which said picture type data is included followed by a video area in which picture data representing a picture of said digital picture signal is included. J-

^{22.}
~~129.~~ The method of claim ¹⁵~~13~~, wherein said picture type data identifies a minimum number of frames between two frames encoded either by intrapicture or predictive coding and

identifies a total number of frames in said group of pictures represented by said digital picture signal. -A

²⁶
~~A-30~~ The method of claim ²³~~20~~, wherein said digital picture signal includes an ancillary area in which said picture type data is included followed by a video area in which picture data representing a picture of said digital picture signal is included. -f

²⁷
~~A-31~~ The method of claim ²³~~20~~, wherein said picture type data identifies a minimum number of frames between two frames encoded either by intrapicture or predictive coding and identifies a total number of frames in said group of pictures represented by said digital picture signal. -j

REMARKS

In light of the above amendatory matter and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-15, 17-20 and 22-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent 5,473,380. Claims 4, 9, 16 and 21 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent 5,473,380 in view of U.S. Patent 5,543,847 (Kato).

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